THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) There is no such proposal. The question of formulation of a national wage policy has been considered from time to time at various forums. The matter was discussed by the Group of State Labour Ministers on the 23rd September, 1985 and the majority view was that it may not be feasible to formulate the national wage policy at this stage. In the Indian Labour Conference held on 25-26 November, 1985, it was decided that till such time a national minimum wage is feasible it would be desirable to have regional minimum wages in regard to which the Central Government may lay down the guidelines. These guidelines were circulated in July, 1987.

(b) Does not arise.

Storing of Hazardous chemicals by the Industrial Units

@2558. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Storing of Hazardous chemicals by the Industrial Units

(a) whether it is a fact that in more than 307 places in Indian cities and also in the countryside, hazardous chemicals have been stored without any protection as per the study conducted by the International Labour Organisation; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take against the industries in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) Based on the criteria laid down in the report of an expert deputed by the International Labour Organisation, 307 major accident hazard installations have been identified in the country upto December, 1988.

It is not correct to say that these units have been storing hazardous chemicals without any protection. The provisions for safety, health and welfare of workers employed in factories as contained in the Factories Act, 1948, are required to be complied with by the management. By an amendment to the Factories Act, 1948, a separate chapter on "hazardous processes" was incorporated which provides for setting up of Site Appraisal Committees for grant of permission for initial location and expansion of existing factories involving a hazardous process, compulsory disclosure of information by the occupier, specific responsibility of occupier in relation to hazardous processes, preparation of on-site and off-site emergency plans, workers' participation in safety management, etc. The Act also lays down the permissible limits of exposure to chemical and toxic substances. The Act is enforced by the State Governments.

The Ministry of Labour is implementing an ILO Project on "Establishment and initial operation of major accident hazard control system in India". Steps are being taken under the project to strengthen the system of safety in installations posing Major Accident hazards.

Loss to NCCF on Import of Black Matpe

2559. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1870 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th November, 1988 and state:

(a) whether the CAG in his latest report has pointed out serious irregularities in various import/export deals in NCCF which were initiated by the Deputy Manager (Imports) without prior approval of business Committee;

(b) whether it is a fact that the same Deputy Manager initiated again a fresh proposal in November, 1987 for import of Black Matpe from Thailand without any approval of the competent authority;

@Previously Unstarred Question 1658, transferred from the 9th March, 1989.